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Letter dated 26 March 2014 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the sixth monthly report of the Director-General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) pursuant to paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 2118 (2013) (see annex). The present letter provides information requested in that resolution on the activities of the United Nations from 23 February to 22 March 2014 related to the implementation of the resolution.

Introduction

During the reporting period, the Syrian Arab Republic accelerated the removal of chemical weapons material from its territory and made important progress in reducing its stockpile. As at 22 March 2014, the total figure for removal and destruction had reached 53.6 per cent. This includes almost 35 per cent of high priority chemical materials and more than 80 per cent of other chemical materials removed, as well as 93 per cent of declared isopropanol verified as destroyed.

The movements occurred within the framework of a sequenced plan of activities adopted by the Syrian Arab Republic, which stipulates that all chemical weapons material will be removed from its territory by 13 April 2014, aside from material located at two sites that are currently inaccessible owing to the security situation. All material is scheduled for removal or in-country destruction by the end of April 2014, contingent upon safe and secure access. The Syrian authorities at the highest level have reconfirmed their commitment to the elimination of the country's chemical weapons programme and to the further acceleration of the pace of removal wherever possible to meet its obligations under Security Council resolution 2118 (2013) and relevant decisions of the OPCW Executive Council.

Activities towards the elimination of the chemical weapons programme of the Syrian Arab Republic

On 14 February 2014, the Syrian Arab Republic submitted a sequenced plan of activities to the Joint Mission of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the United Nations for the Elimination of the Chemical Weapons Programme of the Syrian Arab Republic (Joint Mission), detailing its schedule of movements of chemical weapons material from storage sites to the port of embarkation for removal from the country. Following consultations with the OPCW Operational Planning Group and the Joint Mission, the Syrian authorities submitted a revised plan on 23 February 2014 that reduced the schedule of operations and

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established milestones as outlined above. During the reporting period, the Joint Mission continued to work with the Syrian Arab Republic to achieve accelerated volume-based movements of all chemical weapons material, with a particular focus on high priority material requiring time for external destruction.

During the reporting period, the Syrian Arab Republic conducted eight movements of chemical weapons material to Latakia for onward transportation out of the country, bringing the total number of movements since the commencement of operations to eleven. These movements included the removal of the entire declared stockpile of sulphur mustard, commonly known as "mustard gas", on 26 February 2014, as well as significant quantities of binary chemical weapons material.

In accordance with established procedure, the Joint Mission conducted sampling and analysis, as well as extensive verification of the removal of all chemical weapons material, physically at sites where security conditions allowed and remotely by surveillance camera equipment where they were not allowed. Additional verification and inspection activities were carried out at a temporary holding area near Damascus for one movement and at the port of Latakia prior to loading all shipments.

Regarding the destruction of chemical weapons material in-country, the Syrian Arab Republic destroyed some 93 per cent of isopropanol and 87 per cent of empty containers with sulphur mustard residue earlier in the year, before the intermediate deadline of 1 March 2014. This destruction was verified by the Joint Mission. The remaining quantities are stored at the two sites that are currently inaccessible owing to the prevailing security situation. The Syrian authorities have assured that the remaining material will also be destroyed in-country as soon as the sites become accessible. This destruction will be verified by the Joint Mission.

As regards the destruction of chemical weapons production facilities, the Syrian Arab Republic rendered inoperable all production, mixing and filling equipment in October 2013 and subsequently destroyed all mobile production facilities, specialized equipment and special features at a number of facilities. These activities were verified by the Joint Mission when the security situation permitted. However, some standard equipment and buildings, including hangars and tunnel systems, were not destroyed in advance of the 15 March 2014 intermediate milestone. On 7 March 2014, the OPCW Executive Council requested the Syrian Arab Republic to submit a revised detailed plan for the destruction of these facilities, including proposed measures for verification, working in close consultation with OPCW experts. Subsequently, the Syrian Arab Republic facilitated the visit of a team of OPCW experts, which was supported by the Joint Mission, to assist in finalizing a revised detailed plan for destruction. The revised plan is to be submitted to the Executive Council at its next meeting on 28 March 2014. In the meantime, the Joint Mission continues to encourage the Syrian Arab Republic to destroy all other remaining equipment and buildings as soon as possible, so that verification can be carried out concurrently with ongoing site activities.

During the reporting period, the Special Coordinator of the Joint Mission continued her engagement with the Syrian Arab Republic and other Member States contributing to the chemical weapons programme elimination process. She held regular discussions with senior Syrian Arab Republic officials in Damascus, visited Washington, D.C., London and Paris, and briefed Member States in New York, The Hague, Nicosia and Beirut on the progress in implementation.

The Joint Mission worked with Member States to facilitate the delivery of the remaining logistical equipment and material required for the ground movements and to enhance preparedness in the processing and loading of chemical weapons material at the port of Latakia. On 27 and 28 February 2014, the Joint Mission facilitated a meeting hosted by the Director-General of OPCW of Member States assisting in the maritime movement process. The meeting reinforced a common understanding of the requirements for the transit of chemical material to the different destruction destinations.

The security situation in the Syrian Arab Republic remained highly volatile and continued to present challenges on the ground. During the removal operation on 9 March 2014, six rockets hit Latakia, resulting in the injury of several Syrian civilians and property damage some distance from the port area. On 14 March 2014, the Syrian authorities reported that they had taken action to prevent another rocket attack on the city during a removal operation. On 19 March 2014 two more rockets hit Latakia the day before a removal operation, again resulting in injuries. The incidents did not stop the removal operations. As a result of the first attack, the Syrian authorities re-evaluated the security situation and put in place additional mitigation measures, and the movements continued broadly as scheduled.

During the period under review, the Syrian Arab Republic intermittently reported to the Joint Mission information received concerning planned attacks on chemical weapons storage sites and convoys. The Syrian authorities also informed the Joint Mission of the risk mitigation measures they were putting in place to safeguard the chemical material and personnel involved in the removal operations. In addition, as reported above, the security situation continued to prevent access to two storage sites. The precarious and unstable nature of the security situation further underlines the importance of expediting and securing the removal of chemical weapons material from the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic.

The Joint Mission continues to assess the security situation to identify threats and to mitigate risks to its personnel and assets. It continues to reinforce its safety and security procedures at its headquarters and during its operations on the ground. As part of this ongoing assessment, the Joint Mission is looking at measures to reduce its footprint on the ground in the Syrian Arab Republic, in particular in the light of the expected completion of chemical material removal in April 2014. As I have stated in my previous reports, the security of the Joint Mission ultimately remains the responsibility of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Syrian authorities must continue to ensure the safety and security of all OPCW and United Nations personnel operating inside the country.

Conclusion

The Syrian Arab Republic has made important progress in removing chemical weapons material over the past few weeks. I welcome the constructive cooperation of the Syrian authorities in this regard.

The removal and destruction of remaining elements of the chemical weapons programme should now be brought to a timely conclusion. The challenging operating environment and the increasing number of security incidents underscore the urgency of the situation.

During the month of April, and in accordance with the revised plan, all remaining chemical weapons material should be removed from the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic, including chemical materials stored in sites that are currently inaccessible. The remaining quantities of isopropanol and empty containers with sulphur mustard residue should be destroyed. In addition, I expect that further progress will be made concerning the destruction of chemical weapons production facilities.

I wish to express my appreciation to Member States for continuing to provide significant funds and assets towards the removal and destruction of chemical weapons material from the Syrian Arab Republic. At a time when the situation in the country remains bleak, such international commitment is essential to ensure the timely elimination of the chemical weapons programme as part of wider efforts in the interests of peace and security for all the people of the Syrian Arab Republic.

I am also thankful to the Special Coordinator and the staff of the Joint Mission for their continuing work in often hazardous and dangerous circumstances inside the Syrian Arab Republic.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex urgently to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

Annex

[Original: English]

Letter dated 24 March 2014 from the Director-General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you my report entitled "Progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme" prepared in accordance with the relevant provisions of OPCW Executive Council Decision EC-M-33/DEC.1, and Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), both dated 27 September 2013, for transmission to the Security Council (see enclosure). My report covers the period from 23 February 2014 to 22 March 2014 and also covers the reporting requirements of Executive Council decision EC-M-34/DEC.1, dated 15 November 2013.

(*Signed*) Ahmet Üzümcü

Enclosure

[Original: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish]

Progress in the Elimination of the Syrian Chemical Weapons Programme

1. In accordance with subparagraph 2(f) of the decision by the Executive Council (hereinafter "the Council") at its Thirty-Third Meeting (EC-M-33/DEC.1, dated 27 September 2013), the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter "the Secretariat") reports to the Council on a monthly basis regarding the implementation of that decision. In accordance with paragraph 12 of United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), the report by the Secretariat is also submitted to the Security Council through the Secretary-General. This is the sixth such monthly report.

2. The Council, at its Thirty-Fourth Meeting, adopted a decision entitled "Detailed Requirements for the Destruction of Syrian Chemical Weapons and Syrian Chemical Weapons Production Facilities" (EC-M-34/DEC.1, dated 15 November 2013). In paragraph 22 of this decision, the Council decided that the Secretariat should report on its implementation "in conjunction with its reporting required by subparagraph 2(f) of Council decision EC-M-33/DEC.1".

3. This report is therefore submitted in accordance with both above-mentioned Council decisions and includes information relevant to their implementation during the period from 23 February to 22 March 2014.

Progress achieved by the Syrian Arab Republic in meeting the requirements of EC-M-33/DEC.1 and EC-M-34/DEC.1

4. In accordance with subparagraph 1(c) of EC-M-33/DEC.1, the Syrian Arab Republic is required to complete the elimination of all chemical weapons material and equipment in the first half of 2014. Paragraphs 2 and 3 of EC-M-34/DEC.1 establish intermediate completion dates for the removal and destruction of Syrian chemical weapons prior to their complete elimination in the first half of 2014. Progress achieved within the reporting period by the Syrian Arab Republic in fulfilling these obligations is described below:

(a) Pursuant to subparagraphs 2(a)(ii) and (iii) of EC-M-34/DEC.1, all chemicals listed in those subparagraphs were due to have been removed from the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic by 31 December 2013 and 5 February 2014, respectively. However, as reported previously, these objectives were not met. On 23 February 2014, the Syrian Arab Republic submitted to the Director-General an amended time frame for the removal of all chemicals. In accordance with this amended time frame, the Syrian Arab Republic aims to complete the removal of all chemicals from its territory by 13 April 2014, except for chemicals located in facilities that are presently inaccessible. These chemicals could be removed whenever conditions are deemed suitable for movements from these sites but in any event are scheduled for transportation by 27 April 2014, according to the revised schedule;

(b) During the reporting period, a significant quantity of chemicals has been removed from the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic. As at the cut-off date of this

report, the Syrian Arab Republic had made a total of 11 shipments of priority chemicals to the port of embarkation at Latakia (eight in the reporting period), where they were loaded onto the Danish and Norwegian cargo ships. These most recent shipments mean that almost 35% of declared Priority 1 chemicals and more than 80% of declared Priority 2 chemicals (making a combined total of 49.3% of Priority 1 and 2 chemicals) planned for destruction outside the Syrian Arab Republic have now been removed from Syrian territory. With a total of 93% of the declared isopropanol verified as destroyed on Syrian territory, the total percentage of chemicals both removed and destroyed comes to 53.6%. While progress in the removal of chemicals from Syrian Arab Republic has accelerated, particularly in the reporting period, the target date of 31 March 2014 for the effective destruction of Priority 1 chemicals set by subparagraph 3(a) of EC-M-34/DEC.1 will not be met;

(c) Pursuant to subparagraph 2(b) of EC-M-34/DEC.1, the Syrian Arab Republic was requested to destroy all of its chemical weapons production facilities (CWPFs) by 15 March 2014. However, this objective has not been met. As previously reported, a total of 26 CWPFs were declared. During the reporting period, the Syrian Arab Republic has carried out further destruction activities at declared CWPFs. As at the cut-off date of this report, of these 26 CWPFs: eight mobile units had been destroyed and verified; at one CWPF, all declared specialised buildings and equipment had been destroyed and verified; at four CWPFs, all declared specialised/standard buildings and equipment had been destroyed but verification was pending; and at 12 CWPFs, either standard equipment and/or specialised/standard buildings remained to be destroyed and verified. As requested by the Council at its Seventy-Fifth Session (paragraph 7.13 of EC-75/2, dated 7 March 2014), the Syrian Arab Republic is now working on a revised detailed plan for the destruction of the remaining CWPFs to be submitted to the Secretariat, in order for the combined plans for destruction and verification to be submitted to the Council and agreed upon between the Council and the Syrian Arab Republic at its Fortieth Meeting, on 28 March 2014;

(d) Pursuant to paragraph 19 of EC-M-34/DEC.1, the Syrian Arab Republic is required to submit a monthly report to the Council regarding activities on its territory related to the destruction of chemical weapons and CWPFs. The fourth such report was submitted to the Secretariat on 17 March 2014 and made available to the Council (EC-M-40/P/NAT.1, dated 17 March 2014);

(e) On 7 March 2014, the Syrian Arab Republic submitted an amendment to its initial declaration. The Secretariat is currently in the process of seeking clarifications on this amendment; and

(f) In accordance with subparagraph 1(e) of EC-M-33/DEC.1 and paragraph 7 of resolution 2118 (2013), the Syrian Arab Republic shall cooperate fully with all aspects of the implementation of the decision and the resolution. The Syrian authorities have continued to extend the necessary cooperation to the OPCW United Nations Joint Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic (hereinafter "the Joint Mission") in the conduct of its activities during the reporting period.

Activities carried out by the Secretariat with respect to the Syrian Arab Republic

5. Effective cooperation with the United Nations in the context of the Joint Mission has continued with close coordination between the two organisations and between the offices in New York, The Hague, Cyprus, and Damascus. As at the cut-off date of this report, 17 OPCW staff members were deployed with the Joint Mission in Damascus and Latakia, and one logistics officer in Beirut. A team of five experts was also temporarily deployed between 11 and 21 March 2014, pursuant to the request by the Council at its Seventy-Fifth Session in relation to CWPFs (paragraph 7.14 of EC-75/2). Further information on the team of experts is provided in paragraph 9 below.

6. The Director-General and the Special Coordinator of the Joint Mission, Ms Sigrid Kaag, have maintained regular contact. The Special Coordinator briefed the Council on 4 March 2014. The Director-General has continued to meet with senior representatives of the States Parties offering to host a destruction facility or otherwise providing assistance with transport or destruction, and to communicate regularly with senior officials from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic. The Secretariat has continued to provide weekly information briefings to States Parties in The Hague on behalf of the Director-General. Following the request by the Council at its Seventy Fifth Session that the Director-General brief delegations each week on progress in implementing the plan for the removal of Syrian chemical weapons (paragraph 7.12 of EC-75/2), these information briefings have now been formalised.

7. Given the increased tempo of removal activities, the Joint Mission has been heavily involved in verifying the packing and loading of chemicals prior to their transportation to the port of embarkation at Latakia. As previously reported, activities at the relevant chemical weapons storage facilities (CWSFs) included verifying the chemicals against the initial declaration, taking an inventory of the chemicals loaded into each shipping container, conducting sampling on a random basis, and sealing the containers. During the reporting period, the Syrian authorities began to make use of "armoured jackets" procured with funding from the Joint Mission and intended to provide additional protection for containers carrying liquid chemicals. Upon the arrival of the containers at Latakia, the inventory documents for each shipping container were checked, the integrity of the seals was confirmed, and the contents of the containers were verified on a random basis. Once the containers were securely loaded on board the cargo ships, they returned to international waters, where, along with the naval escorts, they will await further deliveries of chemicals to Latakia.

8. Joint Mission personnel have also visited several CWPFs to verify destruction activities carried out by the Syrian Arab Republic. In addition, Joint Mission personnel visited two CWSFs to confirm that they no longer contained chemical weapons. A closure report has been signed and completed for one of these CWSFs and a closure report for the second CWSF will shortly be submitted to the Syrian authorities. A further four CWSFs are empty and pending verification by Joint Mission personnel.

9. As mentioned above, at the request of the Council at its Seventy-Fifth Session (paragraph 7.14 of EC-75/2), the Secretariat deployed a team of experts to the

Syrian Arab Republic to carry out the necessary studies and to render appropriate advice to the Syrian Arab Republic to facilitate the preparation by the Syrian authorities of the revised detailed plan for destruction requested by the Council for the remaining 12 CWPFs. The team of experts arrived in the Syrian Arab Republic on 11 March 2014 and visited six CWPFs, including two types of hangars (single and double), as well as four of the five underground structures (tunnels). One underground structure could not be visited due to security considerations. Based on the outcome of the on-site visits and detailed discussions with the team of experts from the Secretariat, the Syrian Arab Republic is expected to submit to the Secretariat its revised detailed plan for the destruction of the remaining CWPFs.

10. As previously reported, at its Thirty-Eighth Meeting, the Council approved a model agreement (EC-M-38/DEC.1, dated 30 January 2014) specifying the arrangements governing on-site inspections at commercial facilities selected pursuant to paragraph 24 of decision EC-M-34/DEC.1 or sponsored by States Parties pursuant to paragraph 7 of decision EC-M-36/DEC.2. On the basis of this model agreement, the Secretariat conducted negotiations with the governments of Finland, Germany, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America. An agreement with Finland and an arrangement with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland were approved by the Council at its Seventy-Fifth Session (EC-75/DEC.4 and EC-75/DEC.3 respectively, both dated 5 March 2014). An arrangement with Germany and a facility agreement with the United States of America are being finalised with the aim of submitting them to the Council for approval at its Fortieth Meeting. Once destruction activities commence at these facilities, the Director General will report on progress via these monthly reports, as required by paragraph 4 of EC-M-38/DEC.1.

11. As reported previously, the Secretariat, as required by paragraph 13 of EC-M-34/DEC.1, has developed a draft facility agreement for Syrian CWSFs and submitted the draft to the Syrian authorities for their comments, which are still pending.

Supplementary resources

12. As reported in the previous monthly report, several States Parties are providing assistance and resources for the purposes of the transportation, removal, and destruction of Syrian chemical weapons. All equipment requested by the Syrian Arab Republic has now been provided, either through the Joint Mission or under bilateral arrangements, and all the elements necessary for the removal of chemical weapons from the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic and their subsequent destruction are now in place.

13. As at the cut-off date of this report, the balance in the Syria Trust Fund for the Destruction of Chemical Weapons stood at EUR 47.5 million. Contributions have been received from Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, the Czech Republic, the European Union, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. This includes the contributions that were originally made to the first OPCW Trust Fund for Syria and which have, at the request of the donor, subsequently been transferred, in part or in whole, to the Syria Trust Fund for the

Destruction of Chemical Weapons. A further contribution of EUR 2 million is expected from Italy, and India has committed to contribute approximately EUR 736,000.

Conclusion

14. With the accelerated pace of removal that is now under way, important progress has been made towards meeting the 30 June 2014 deadline for the completion of destruction of all declared chemicals.

15. The Syrian Arab Republic has reaffirmed its commitment to the complete elimination of its chemical weapons by this deadline. In order to realise this objective, it will be important to maintain and possibly enhance the current momentum of removal activities.